

In addition to employing thousands of Tennesseans throughout his career, Roy approved many financial gifts from Shoney's of Knoxville, Inc. focusing on children's charities, healthy living, and strong families.

Roy has the respect of everyone who passes through Shoney's. People in the community admire him for his leadership, kindness, and generosity. I'm pleased to commend him on a successful career full of service and leadership.

ENACTING CLIMATE INFRASTRUCTURE AND THE AMERICAN JOBS PLAN

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 2021

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak about the importance of including climate change focused provisions in any forthcoming infrastructure package.

My district of Sacramento, one of the most flood-prone cities in the nation, relies on modernized flood control infrastructure to protect against the threat of inundations intensified by climate change. Just last year, my home state of California experienced the wildfire season on record and this year, we are bracing for what will be one of the worst droughts in recent decades. All of these are testaments that the climate crisis is here . . . and we have no time for half measures.

As we make the most consequential generational investments on our nation's crumbling infrastructure, Congress must prioritize bold investments in resilience, clean energy, jobs, and environmental justice while lowering our carbon footprint to avert the worst impacts of the climate crisis. The President's American Jobs Plan does just that.

As a leader in clean transportation and strong vehicle emission standards, I am thrilled to see that the American Jobs Plan will spark the electric vehicle revolution. The AJP would build a network of five hundred thousand EV chargers, replace fifty thousand diesel transit vehicles with cleaner vehicles, create a million jobs in the auto industry, and help consumers purchase the vehicles of tomorrow. These infrastructure improvements are critical to lower transportation emissions, the largest source of carbon pollution in the United States, and to decrease tailpipe pollution which disproportionately impacts communities of color.

Further, the American Jobs Plan will help us meet this moment with a visionary agenda that elevates every community—creating at least 2.7 million jobs in the new green economy and investing 40 percent of infrastructure funds in disadvantaged communities.

It is time for Congress to follow the President's leadership and pass an infrastructure package that will help us build a cleaner economy that values workers, communities of color, and all Americans who need environmental, climate, and economic justice. In 2021, we cannot address infrastructure without addressing climate change.

IN RECOGNITION OF ROBERT HILLER

HON. VICKY HARTZLER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 2021

Mrs. HARTZLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the service of Robert Hiller, also known as "Racecar Bob", on his efforts to raise money for the Sedalia, Missouri Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) program.

Bob has been serving his community and the region for over three decades, working with law enforcement agencies across seven different states. He has done this with the help of his iconic racecar—he offers rides and appears in the program's annual car show in order to raise money as well as spread awareness. Next year will be Bob's 31st appearance in the car show—the same number as his racecar.

The Sedalia D.A.R.E. Officers, through Bob's efforts, have been able to serve around 20,000 students without having to rely on public tax money, and they will be able to do so for another seven years without needing future funding. Additionally, the program has been able to establish two \$500 scholarships for local high school students.

Bob has had an incredible impact in educating young people about the dangers of substance abuse and making sure they stay safe and healthy. We are incredibly grateful for his service.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 2021

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, June 15, 2021, I inadvertently missed Roll Call vote number 161 on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, H.R. 3325. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 161.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF DR. GEORGE BERCI

HON. TED LIEU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 2021

Mr. LIEU. Madam Speaker, I rise in recognition of the tremendous contributions of Dr. George Berci, a beloved American and resident of California's 33rd Congressional District. With decades of work as an inventor, engineer, professor and author, Dr. Berci's innovative genius and generous spirit has impacted not only the world of medicine but also laid the foundation for future advancement in surgical technologies.

Born in Hungary in 1921, Dr. Berci's family immigrated to Vienna where he studied the violin. They returned to Hungary in the late 1930's when the rise of Nazi Germany forced thousands of Jewish people to emigrate from

Austria. He re-learned Hungarian, graduated from high school, and studied mechanical engineering for three years.

In 1942, Dr. Berci was conscripted into a forced labor camp in his native Hungary. Near the end of the war, George escaped a Nazi march toward Auschwitz and returned behind German lines to Budapest to find his mother. He joined the underground where he used his German language skills to save many still in the ghetto.

In war ravaged, communist-controlled Hungary, Dr. Berci attended Medical School and completed his surgical residency. During this time, he was arrested for confronting the Communist Party, wrote his first research papers, and escaped during the 1956 Hungarian Revolution to Melbourne, Australia. Following his escape, he was awarded a Rockefeller Fellowship in surgery in Vienna, Austria. After working many years in a laboratory, Dr. Berci became an Associate Professor of Surgery in the Department of Surgery at the University of Melbourne.

Dr. Berci performed a one-year fellowship at the University of Seattle and in 1970, accepted the position of Director of Surgical Endoscopy and Surgical Research at Cedars of Lebanon Hospital and later Cedars-Sinai Medical Center under the chairmanship and mentorship of the great Leon Morgenstern. He was later named Clinical Professor of Surgery at the University of California, Los Angeles and the University of Southern California.

In his 70-year career, Dr. Berci changed the face of surgery and anesthesiology by pioneering many endoscopic and laparoscopic techniques that provide the basis for virtually all minimally invasive surgeries performed today. George's many major contributions to the science and medical communities include his notable leadership as a part of the Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons' laparoscopic safety and efficiency training programs. Through this program he developed the first miniature endoscopic video camera, creating a video intubation scope and invented the VITOM surgical video microscope. George also developed other endoscopic instruments and procedures used in urology, gynecology, general, and thoracic surgery, operative laryngology, office laryngology, and pediatric surgery—where his miniature endoscopes allowed endoscopic surgery in children.

Dr. Berci has been widely recognized for his work, having been awarded 21 major prestigious awards, including: the Glissan Prize (Australia) and the American College of Jacobson Innovation Award. In addition, Karl Storz Endoscopy endowed a Chair in Surgery position in his honor, the University of Hungary awarded him an honorary PhD, and Cedars-Sinai Medical Center presented him with their 2017 Lifetime Achievement Award.

As a prolific speaker, writer, and researcher, Dr. Berci has delivered hundreds of lectures, published 12 books and 238 publications in peer reviewed journals worldwide. His revolutionization of the field of minimally invasive surgery, and his impact as a mentor to a generation of surgeons, has made a lasting mark on the entire medical community.

At 100 years of age, Dr. George Berci continues to serve the medical community at Cedar-Sinai's Hospital in Los Angeles, teaching residents at the Women's Guild Simulation